



ABOUT THE
ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC
AND LAND-GRANT
UNIVERSITIES

APLU is a research, policy, and advocacy organization dedicated to strengthening and advancing the work of public universities.

With a membership of 237 public research universities, land-grant institutions, state university systems, and affiliated organizations, APLU's agenda is built on the three pillars of increasing degree completion and academic success, advancing scientific research, and expanding engagement.

Annually, its 195 U.S. member campuses enroll 4 million undergraduates and 1.2 million graduate students, award 1.1 million degrees, employ 1 million faculty and staff, and conduct \$40.7 billion in university-based research.

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FY2018 Appropriations Priorities

LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH)

APLU FY2018 Request: \$36.2 billion

(FY2018 PBR = \$26.9B; FY2017 = \$34.1B; FY2016 = \$32.1B)

APLU strongly advocates an NIH appropriation of \$36.2 billion for FY2018, including funds provided through the 21st Century Cures Act for targeted initiatives. This level is necessary to ensure America's global leadership in medical research and development of health treatments and life-saving cures. NIH, currently the world's premier biomedical research funding agency, competitively awards grants to scientists at APLU universities in all 50 states.

Providing a \$2 billion increase to the NIH funding base in FY2018 would build upon the past two years of funding boosts for the agency and would further help the NIH budget catch up with biomedical inflation and many prior years of stagnant funding. A consistent, robust funding trajectory for NIH is important to safeguard our country's medical research capacity and keep the U.S. at the global forefront of this critical enterprise.

As Congress seeks to optimally allocate limited resources, investing in scientific and medical research should be a priority. Robust NIH funding is necessary to ensure we prevent an [innovation deficit](#) and build a better America. The call to action, [Innovation: An American Imperative](#), signed by ten major industry CEOs and more than 500 additional leading organizations from American industry, higher education, science and engineering, recommends annual increases of at least four percent real growth for scientific research. APLU's FY2018 request of \$36.2 billion for the NIH is consistent with that recommendation.

AGENCY FOR HEALTH RESEARCH AND QUALITY (AHRQ)

APLU FY2018 Request: \$364 million

(FY2018 PBR = \$272M; FY2017 = \$324M; FY2016 = \$334M)

The research that AHRQ funds helps inform what treatments work best to combat disease and how to best deliver those treatments to patients who need them. Ultimately, this information improves health care and saves both patients and the government money. The administration's budget would move AHRQ into a new institute at the NIH, the National Institute for Research on Safety and Quality (NIRSQ) and would fund the new NIRSQ at \$272 million. While APLU has not taken a position on the proposed move, APLU recommends funding the unit at \$364 million to restore previous funding cuts at AHRQ and help continue the agency's mission of health care safety, effectiveness, and efficiency.

APLU FY2018 LABOR-HHS-ED APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES (con't)

HEALTH RESOURCES & SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (HRSA) TITLE VII AND TITLE VIII HEALTH PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS APLU FY2018 Request: \$580 million (PBR = \$88M; FY2017 = \$539M; FY2016 = \$542M)

The Title VII health professions programs and Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs at HRSA aim to improve the supply, geographic distribution and diversity of the health workforce through education and training and financial aid. Title VII and Title VIII programs are the only federally-funded programs designed to meet the growing needs for health care professionals, improve the diversity of the health workforce, and ensure access to quality care for all populations. Adequate funding for Title VII and Title VIII programs is needed to address current provider shortages, as well as the current and future challenges of a rapidly growing and aging population.

APLU requests \$580 million in FY2018 for HRSA's Title VII and Title VIII programs. This recommendation also includes funding for Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) which was added to Title VII in the FY2017 Omnibus Appropriations Act.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PELL GRANT PROGRAM

APLU FY2018 Request: Sums necessary to reach maximum Pell award of \$5,920; continuation of year-round Pell Grants (FY2018 PBR = \$22.432B [\$5,920 award]; FY2017 = \$22.475B [\$5,920 award]; FY2016 = \$22.475B [\$5,815 award])

APLU supports the appropriations level necessary to reach the maximum Pell award of \$5,920. Additionally, APLU ardently advocates that the Pell surplus be used only to fund the Pell program. The Pell surplus should remain intact to protect the long-term fiscal health of the program and to support changes to the program such as extension of inflation adjustments.

The Federal Pell Grant Program provides need-based grants to financially disadvantaged students and is the foundation of low-income students' aid packages, to which other forms of aid (state and institutional) are added. The Pell Grant Program is the largest federal source of college aid to students and is essential to the national goal of building a workforce in which 60 percent of adults have post-secondary degrees. For many students, a Pell Grant will be a determining factor when deciding if they can pursue a higher education. The program is critical in making progress in supporting greater degree attainment among low-income students. Some 80 percent of 24-year olds from families in the top income quartile hold a bachelor's degree, but just 10 percent of 24-year olds from families in the bottom quartile hold a college degree.

APLU strongly believes that all Americans, regardless of their family income, should be able to pursue a college degree if they so choose, and that family income should not be a barrier to an individual's ability to go to college. Pell Grants are critical to this aim.

APLU FY2018 LABOR-HHS-ED APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES (con't)

GRADUATE EDUCATION: GRADUATE ASSISTANCE IN AREAS OF NATIONAL NEED (GAANN)

APLU FY2018 Request: \$31 million

(FY2018 PBR = \$5.8M; FY2017 = \$28M; FY2016 = \$29.3M; FY2015 = \$29.3M)

APLU urges Congress to support the pre-sequester funding level of \$31 million in FY2018 for the GAANN program. The GAANN traineeships are vital programs that strengthen U.S. economic competitiveness via support of graduate students in critical fields of study. The GAANN helps ensure a strong pipeline of talented experts who will help meet the demands of our 21st century workforce.

SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT (SEOG)

APLU FY2018 Request: \$757 million

(FY2018 PBR = 0; FY2017 = \$733M; FY2016 = \$733M; FY2015= \$733M)

The SEOG program provides up to an additional \$4,000 in grant assistance to Pell Grant recipients with unmet need thus further aiding with the cost of college and enhancing access for the neediest students. The program is not duplicative of Pell but rather *supplemental* as it provides additional aid to the neediest students. Unique to Pell, it requires institutions to contribute at least 25 percent of the SEOG award funds, making it a strong leverage of the federal investment building on Pell Grants. APLU urges Congress to provide funding in FY2018 of \$757 million, the pre-sequester level of funding, for this important student aid program.

FEDERAL WORK STUDY

APLU FY2018 Request: \$990 million

(FY2018 PBR = \$500M; FY2017 = \$990M; FY2016 = \$990M; FY2015 = \$990M)

The Federal Work Study program is a critical partnership between the federal government, institutions, and students. It provides students the opportunity to earn additional aid through part-time employment on campus and in the community. Federal Work Study is an essential part of a financial aid package and a strong alternative to additional loan debt. APLU advocates funding the program at a level of \$990 million in FY2018, consistent with FY2017 funding.

TRIO PROGRAMS

APLU FY2018 Request: \$960 million

(FY2018 PBR = \$808M; FY2017 = \$950M; FY2016 = \$900M; FY2015 = \$840M)

The TRIO programs help low-income, first generation, and disabled students prepare for, enter, and graduate from college. Given the growing achievement gap in educational attainment between low- and high- income students, TRIO programs play an increasingly critical role. TRIO programs serve nearly 800,000 students with over 2,800 programs nationally. APLU recommends funding TRIO programs at \$960 million in FY2018.

APLU FY2018 LABOR-HHS-ED APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES (con't)

GAINING EARLY AWARENESS & READINESS FOR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS (GEAR UP)

APLU FY2018 Request: \$350 million

(FY2018 PBR = \$219M; FY2017 = \$340M; FY2016 = \$323M; FY2015 = \$302M)

APLU urges Congress to support GEAR UP at a level of \$350 million in FY2018. The GEAR UP grant program substantially increases the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education by providing tutoring, mentoring, academic preparation, and college scholarships. GEAR UP facilitates critical partnerships between high-poverty middle and high schools, colleges, businesses, and community-based organizations.

APLU institutions receive TRIO and GEAR UP grants to partner with community organizations and schools to encourage and ensure access to higher education institutions and success in college. This is in keeping with our public mission and one of the reasons these programs are so important to APLU institutions.

TITLE VI: INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDIES

APLU FY2018 Request: \$76 million

(FY2018 PBR = 0; FY2017 = \$72M; FY2016 = \$72M; FY2015 = \$72M)

APLU supports funding International Education and Foreign Languages Studies at \$76 million in FY2018. These programs play a critical role in expanding our next generation's skills of international competency that will support American global leadership, economic competitiveness, and long-term security. Cuts of 43 percent over the past six years have resulted in a significant reduction in the number of National Resource Centers (from 127 to 100 in the last grant competition), endangering the domestic pipeline of language and area experts capable of ensuring needed U.S. capacities in less commonly taught, but strategically important, languages and cultures, and reducing the ability of universities to offer students global learning. Because these programs serve national security as well as business workforce demands, APLU strongly urges this funding increase in FY2018 for Title VI International Education and Foreign Language Studies.

INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES

APLU FY2018 Request: \$670 million

(FY2018 PBR = \$617M; FY2017 = \$605M; FY2016 = \$618M; FY2015 = \$574M)

APLU urges a funding level of \$670 million in FY2018 for the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) to build on scientific evidence-based approaches to education. We are particularly supportive of the IES Research, Development, and Dissemination and Research in Special Education accounts, as they fund cutting-edge research through the National Center for Education Research and the National Center for Special Education Research. APLU also supports grants for statewide longitudinal data systems as they have helped some states make important data linkages which shed light on educational outcomes and best practices.